

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for storing and/or dispensing, one by one or either in homogeneous or non homogeneous bundles, substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, comprising at least one supporting element driven in rotation by at least one electric motor and a ribbon ~~[[means]]~~ wound on said supporting element and on at least one take-up member for taking up said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~, the ~~banknotes~~ planar items being stored sequentially between successive windings of said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~ that are wound and unwound between said supporting element and said at least one take-up member, ~~said device being characterized in that~~ wherein said supporting element is made of a rigid material and has a non-circular cross section for obtaining one or more distinct rigid resting surfaces, on which said ribbon ~~means are~~ is wound.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said supporting element comprises one or more convex resting surfaces.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said supporting element comprises one or more concave resting surfaces.

4. (Original) The device, according to claim 1, wherein said supporting element comprises one or more plane resting surfaces.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said supporting element comprises at least two resting surfaces, on which said ribbon ~~means are~~ is wound.

6. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein each of said planar items is stored, either totally or in part, on each of said one or more resting surfaces.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said one or more resting surfaces of said supporting element have a quadrangular shape in plan view.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein the axis of rotation of said supporting element is substantially parallel to at least one of the sides of said quadrangular surface.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said supporting element is formed by a plate having a substantially rectangular shape in plan view and comprising at least two of said opposed resting surfaces.

10. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein said supporting element is set in rotation about an axis coinciding with one of the axes of symmetry of said plate.

11. (Original) The device according to claim 9, wherein said substantially rectangular plate has a larger side of dimension equal to or greater than the larger dimension of said planar items in plan view and a smaller side of dimension equal to or greater than the smaller dimension of said planar items in plan view.

12. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon ~~means~~ comprise/comprises at least one film wound in part on said supporting element and in part on at least one take-up member.

13. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said ribbon ~~means~~ comprise/comprises at least two distinct films wound in part on said supporting element and in part on at least two corresponding distinct take-up members, the planar items being stored sequentially between said two distinct films.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said films has at least one of its surfaces rough, coarse, irregular or in any case non-smooth.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said films is embossed.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said films has at least one surface, on which there is deposited, either totally or in part, a layer of material with properties of adherence.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said at least two take-up members are driven in rotation by distinct electric motors.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said at least two take-up members are driven in rotation by a single motor.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein said take-up members are constituted by cylindrical rollers.

20. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein said take-up members are constituted by rollers with polygonal cross section.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~wherein there are provided means for controlling~~further comprising a controller to control the traction of said ribbon ~~between said supporting element and said at least one take-up member.~~
[[means]] between said supporting element and said at least one take-up member.

22. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said ~~means for controlling traction include~~controller comprises at least one dandy-roller system.

23. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said ~~means for controlling traction include~~controller includes one or more braking systems that can be operated upon command.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said ~~means for controlling traction include~~controller includes one or more braking systems with pre- defined friction.

25. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 21, wherein said ~~means for controlling traction include~~controller includes a drive means for driving to drive in rotation in just one direction, mounted on the shafts of said take-up members.

26. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~wherein there are provided~~further comprising one or more optical sensors ~~for detection of~~to detect the angular position of said supporting element.

27. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said device is formed by at least two distinct portions that can be separated from one another.

28. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 27, wherein said device includes at least one first portion containing at least the motor for actuation in rotation of said supporting element and at least one or more motors for actuation in rotation of one or more take-up members of said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~, as well as at least one second portion containing at least said supporting element and said one or more take-up members.

29. (Original) The device according to claim 28, wherein there are provided gear drive means set between said motors contained in said first portion and the elements driven in rotation contained in said second portion.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for storing and/or dispensing, one by one or either in homogeneous or non homogeneous bundles, substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, including:

- ~~wherein storing sequentially~~ said planar items ~~are stored sequentially between~~ successive windings of a ribbon ~~[[means]] which is wound and unwound between~~ on a supporting element driven in rotation by at least one electric motor and unwound from at least one take-up member,

- dispensing sequentially said planar items previously stored by unwinding said ribbon from said supporting element and winding the ribbon on at least one take-up member,

forming said supporting element ~~[[has]] in~~ a non-circular cross section made of rigid material for obtaining one or more distinct rigid resting surfaces, on which said ribbon ~~means~~ are wound.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said planar items are stored on a supporting element ~~comprises~~ comprising one or more convex resting surfaces.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said planar items are stored on a supporting element ~~comprises~~ comprising one or more concave resting surfaces.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said planar items are stored on a supporting element ~~comprises~~ comprising one or more plane resting surfaces.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said ribbon is wound on a supporting element ~~comprises~~ comprising at least two resting surfaces, ~~on which said ribbon means are wound.~~

35. (Original) The method according to claim 30, wherein each of said planar items is stored, either totally or in part, on each of said one or more resting surfaces.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said resting surfaces to have a substantially quadrangular shape in plan view, and wherein setting said supporting element the axis of rotation of said supporting element in rotation

about an axis which is substantially parallel to at least one of the sides of said quadrangular plane surfaces.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said supporting element ~~is formed by~~ a plate having a substantially rectangular shape in plan view, comprising at least two of said opposed resting surfaces.

38. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein said supporting element is set in rotation about an axis coinciding with one of the axes of symmetry of said plate.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 37, wherein said substantially rectangular plate has a larger side of dimension equal to or greater than that of the larger side of said planar items and a smaller side of dimension equal to or greater than that of the smaller side of said planar items.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said ribbon ~~means~~ comprise/comprises at least one film wound in part on said supporting element and in part on said at least one take-up member.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said ribbon ~~means~~ comprise/comprises at least two distinct films wound in part on said supporting element and in part on at least two corresponding distinct take-up members, the planar items being stored sequentially between said two distinct films.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 40, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming at least one of said films ~~[[has]]~~ to have at least one of its surfaces rough, coarse, irregular or in any case non-smooth.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of said films is embossed.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein at least one of said films has at least one surface on which there is deposited, either totally or in part, a layer of material with properties of adherence.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein said at least two take-up members are driven in rotation by distinct electric motors.

46. (Original) The method according to claim 41, wherein said at least two take-up members are driven in rotation by a single motor.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said take-up members are constituted by cylindrical rollers.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said take-up members are constituted by rollers with polygonal cross section.

49. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, ~~wherein there are provided means for controlling~~ further comprising controlling traction of said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~ between said supporting element and said at least one take-up member.

50. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 49, wherein said ~~means for controlling~~ of traction include is performed by at least one dandy-roller system.

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 49, wherein said ~~means for controlling~~ of traction include is performed by one or more braking systems that can be operated upon-command.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 49, wherein said ~~means for controlling~~ of traction include is performed by one or more braking systems with pre-defined friction.

53. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 49, wherein said ~~means for~~ controlling of traction ~~include~~ is performed by means for driving in rotation in just one direction, mounted on the shafts of said take-up members.

54. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, ~~wherein there is provided~~ detection of ~~further comprising detecting~~ the angular position of said supporting element ~~by means of optical sensors.~~

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said planar items are carried in a position corresponding to said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~ and/or said at least one plane surface of said supporting element along a path that is substantially parallel to the direction of movement of said ribbon~~[[means]]~~.

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein said planar items are carried in a position corresponding to said ribbon ~~[[means]]~~ and/or said at least one plane surface of said supporting element along a path substantially perpendicular to the direction of movement of said ribbon~~[[means]]~~.

57. (Currently Amended) A machine for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, ~~characterized by comprising~~ one or more storing and/or dispensing devices according to claim 1.

58. (New) A device for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, comprising at least one supporting element to be driven in rotation by at least one electric motor and a ribbon to be wound on said supporting element and on at least one take- up member for taking up said ribbon, the planar items being stored sequentially between successive windings of said ribbon that are wound and unwound between said supporting element and said at least one take-up member, wherein said supporting element has a

non-circular cross section to define one or more distinct resting surfaces, on which said ribbon is wound, and wherein the device further comprises one or more optical sensors to detect the angular position of the supporting element.

59. (New) A method for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, including:

- storing sequentially said planar items between successive windings of ribbon which are wound on a supporting element driven in rotation by at least one electric motor and unwound from at least one take-up member;

- dispensing sequentially said planar items previously stored by unwinding said ribbon from said supporting element and winding them on at least one take-up member;

- forming said supporting element to have a non-circular cross section to define one or more distinct resting surfaces, on which said ribbon is wound; and

- detecting the angular position of the supporting element.